



Welcome to the second edition of the LCC Bulletin!

The Bulletin is a platform from the LCC to showcase the many ways in which individuals and organizations are shaping and contributing to the evolution of law across Canada.

By providing regular updates on the work of the LCC and spotlighting interesting initiatives, projects, and successes from different actors involved in law and justice in Canada, the LCC Bulletin CDC provides a space in which readers can learn about the diverse forms and modes in which people are living law, pursuing justice, and renewing hope.

In each quarterly edition, readers will find spaces dedicated to LCC news, information from the LCC's partners, Indigenous law reform initiatives, and upcoming events. Bulletins will therefore also act as a law reform reference and serve to build an inventory of publications, resources, and activities.

The LCC welcomes the submission of items to be featured in an upcoming edition of the Bulletin by email (see more information below in the section "From the LCC's Partners").



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New LCC Team Members

In May, the LCC welcomed Robert Sampson as its new Director General and Deputy Chief Executive Officer. Robert joins the Commission with a deep interest in the structures of the law, access to justice and Canadians' experience of law in their daily lives. He brings to the LCC a wealth of experience in law and public service, having previously spent over a decade at Elections Canada.



LCC Director General - Robert Sampson

The LCC is also fortunate to count on the support, energy, and ideas from a group of four dynamic summer students: Maxwell Brodie, Diana Ebadi, Adhithya Krishnan, and Charlotte Ruffo. Among other things, they build on the important contributions made by Nicholas (Nico) Waltenbury, a Research Intern who joined the LCC for the spring.



LCC 2025 Summer Students

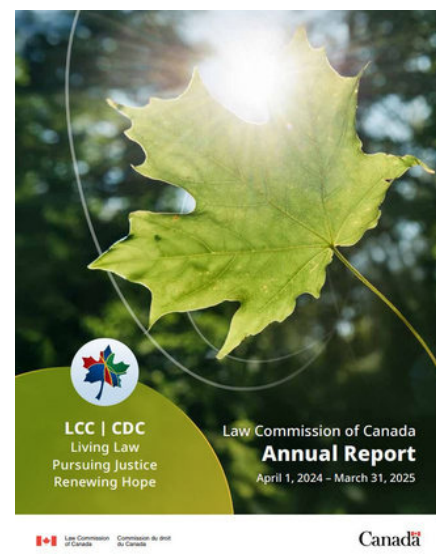
LCC News and Updates

2024-25 Annual Report

The LCC's Annual Report, covering the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, was tabled in Parliament on Friday, June 13.

The report covers the Commission's many exciting activities during the reporting period, and provides updates on various research projects and engagement initiatives from the LCC's first full year of operations.

The Annual Report is available [here](#).



Talking and Teaching



President Van Praagh moderating a panel at the SCC symposium

In April, President Van Praagh moderated a panel on legal pluralism with the Honourable Audrey Bockor of the Cour supérieure du Québec and Professor Lionel Smith of the University of Oxford, as part of the symposium marking the 150th anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada. Meanwhile, LCC Commissioner Sarah Elgazzar spoke to students at a Model United Nations Conference in Southwestern Ontario hosted by the London District Catholic School Board, where she touched on the LCC's work and its vision of its place within the Canadian law and justice landscape.



Commissioner Elgazzar speaking to Model UN participants

In May, President Van Praagh delivered a presentation to the annual meeting of the Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada (FOLRAC) at the University of British Columbia entitled "Legal Pluralism as a Frame for Law Reform (or Imagined Conversations with Rod Macdonald)".



President Van Praagh presents to FOLRAC members - Vancouver, May 2025

In June, President Van Praagh, with summer students Maxwell Brodie and Charlotte Ruffo, led a workshop titled "Reimagining the relationship between law reform and legal education" as part of the Deuxième école internationale d'innovation juridique: La pédagogie et l'enseignement du droit at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law civil law section.



King Charles III Coronation Medals

In May, the LCC had the honour of conferring upon its two nominees the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Joined virtually by LCC Commissioners and in-person by the LCC team, President Van Praagh presented the Honourable Nathalie Des Rosiers with her medal on May 8, in recognition of her longstanding and significant leadership in public service, and her rich contributions to the academy, law, and justice in Canada.

Before her appointment to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Justice Des Rosiers served as Dean of both the Common Law and Civil Law sections at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, General Counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, a Member of Provincial Parliament, and as President of the LCC from 2000 to 2004.



The Hon. Nathalie Des Rosiers receives the King's Coronation Medal



Dr. Val Napoleon receives the King's Coronation Medal

At the annual meeting of the Federation of Law Reform Agencies of Canada at the University of British Columbia, President Van Praagh presented Dr. Val Napoleon with her medal on May 28, in recognition of her contributions to legal education and the revitalization of Indigenous laws, and her leadership in incorporating Indigenous teachings into the evolution of law in this land.

Dr. Napoleon is the Law Foundation Chair of Indigenous Justice and Governance at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law and the Director and Co-Founder of the Indigenous Law Research Unit. To learn more about Dr. Napoleon and her work, listen to this episode of Obiter, the LCC's podcast.





Letters from the President

April 2025

- On the importance of attention, commitment, and trust in all manner of relationships, including those forged through and supported by law

May and June 2025

- On the Law Commission's second anniversary, the renewal of hope and future generations

Collected Letters from the LCC President

- Letters from Year One – June 2023 to May 2024
- Letters from Year Two – June 2024 to May 2025

What We Heard

On a biannual basis, the LCC produces What We Heard reports setting out some of the key preoccupations, priorities, and possibilities that emerged in the course of roundtables, multilateral discussions, bilateral meetings, larger conferences, and informal conversations.

The What We Heard report for the period of January to June 2025 is available [here](#), highlighting the challenges, complexities, considerations, and creative possibilities that were shared by LCC partners during this time.

Previous What We Heard reports are available on the LCC website:

- [What We Heard – June to December 2023](#)
- [What We Heard – January to May 2024](#)
- [What We Heard – June to December 2024](#)





Meeting with the Government of Northwest Territories' Specialized Courts team

The LCC in Yellowknife

In early June, the LCC visited Yellowknife for a series of inspiring and informative engagements, including a Listen & Learn roundtable, a Prison Law Focus Circle, a Charity Discussion Circle, and a range of bilateral meetings where we learned about some of the challenges and opportunities that exist in the North.

Thanks to the Government of Northwest Territories' Specialized Courts team and Community Programs team, the John Howard Society of NWT's Justice Committee, the Native Women's Association of the NWT, North Slave Correctional Complex, the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation, the NWT Literacy Council, the Yellowknife Women's Society, PPSC's crown witness coordination team and its crown counsel team, the Dene Wellness Warriors and the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, among others, for the enriching exchanges.

See the ***Indigenous Spotlight*** section at p. 15 of the Bulletin to learn more about the impressive work being done by the Specialized Courts team and the Dene Wellness Warriors.



Charity Briefs



As part of the Charity and Law in Canada project, the LCC is holding a series of discussion circles with representatives from charitable organizations across Canada. Following each discussion circle, a Charity Brief is drafted with input from participants, setting out the reflections, questions and challenges that were raised in the course of the exchange.

Charity Briefs for the discussion circles in Niagara, Ottawa and Yellowknife are available on the LCC website:

- [Niagara Discussion Circle](#)
- [Ottawa Discussion Circle](#)
- [Yellowknife Discussion Circle](#)



LCC Commissioner Aidan Johnson chairs a charity discussion circle with participants from Birchway Niagara, Future Black Female, Positive Living Niagara, OUTniagara, Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, and the Southridge Community Church - Welland, ON



Emerging Scholar Natasha Jaczek presenting her work to LCC staff and summer students

Summer 2025 LCC Emerging Scholar - Natasha Jaczek

The Emerging Scholars Program was created to recognize the importance of the next generation of legal thinkers and law reformers by providing opportunities to connect exceptional doctoral students' research to public needs and interests. The program provides support over a four-month period to help the emerging scholars design and implement a public outreach initiative based on their work.

Natasha Jaczek, a PhD candidate at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law, was selected as the LCC Emerging Scholar for Summer 2025. Natasha's research explores youth understanding of law and their ability to navigate legal issues in their own lives. As part of her engagement initiative, Natasha will be working with an artist, youth, and jurists based in Toronto to create a legal-themed public mural.

Natasha presented her work to LCC team in June, which you can read more about [here](#).

The LCC is also pleased to share that Winter 2025 Emerging Scholar Michael Law-Smith was appointed as an Assistant Professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law effective 1 July 2025.



LCC | CDC
Living Law | Pursuing Justice | Renewing Hope

Beyond Tomorrow Reports

Law Commission of Canada Renewed Call for Proposals *Beyond Tomorrow Reports* Law for Canada's Next Generations June 2025

This winter, the LCC launched ***Beyond Tomorrow Reports***, a series dedicated to identifying and addressing challenges and issues in law for Canada's next generation and beyond. Selected authors will contribute to imagining, facilitating, and guiding the implementation of reform with lasting impact. Each report will draw on critical informed research to articulate constructive pathways and possibilities for law in the future. Collaborative engagement with community-based actors will be incorporated into the production of the reports.

France Houle, a law professor from Université de Montréal, was selected as the inaugural author of a Beyond Tomorrow Report this past March. Prof. Houle will write about immigration law and governance, drawing on lessons learned from the contemporary Québec-Canada model and experience.

In June, the LCC selected the authors for its next two Beyond Tomorrow Reports:

- Emmanuelle Bernheim, Associate Professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal's Département des sciences juridiques, and Jean-Laurent Domingue, Associate Professor at the University of Ottawa's School of Nursing, will coauthor a legal and policy analysis of forced mental health and addiction treatment in Canada.
- Stephanie Ben-Ishai, Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, will write a report on insolvency law, reimagining corporate restructuring governance in Canada so that it is inclusive, accountable, and future-ready.

Proposals for Beyond Tomorrow Reports are accepted on a rolling basis, and the deadline to be considered as part of the next cycle of proposal reviews is August 29, 2025.

The full call for proposals [here](#).



As provided in the *Law Commission of Canada Act*, the LCC Advisory Council provides advice to the Commission on its strategic directions, long-term program of studies, and performance review. Effective June 1, the LCC welcomed four new members of the Advisory Council:

David Asper is a lawyer, businessperson and philanthropist who has been extensively involved in community service in his hometown of Winnipeg. He is a past professor and acting dean at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law, a former senior executive with Canwest, a healthcare and technology entrepreneur and investor, and chair of the Manitoba Police Commission.

W. Brent Cotter, K.C. is a former member of the Senate, where he represented Saskatchewan. He is an emeritus professor and past dean at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, with a particular expertise in legal ethics. He has served as Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs for the Government of Saskatchewan.

Shirley Cuillierrier is a member of the Kahnatesake Mohawk Nation and was a career-long member of the RCMP, where she rose from the rank of Constable to Assistant Commissioner. She served as the RCMP's Senior Advisor on Reconciliation to implement the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to lead the force's response to the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

New Members of the LCC Advisory Council

Derek Green is a past Chief Justice of both the Court of Appeal for Newfoundland and Labrador and the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, Trial Division. He began his legal career in private practice and served as Chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador Law Reform Commission, as well as Bencher and then Treasurer of the province's Law Society.



David Asper



W. Brent Cotter, K.C.



Shirley Cuillierrier



Derek Green



From the LCC's Partners

This section of the LCC Bulletin showcases a select number of creative and diverse efforts from individuals and organizations working to shape law and justice within the academy, the legal community, the network of independent law reform agencies, non-profit or community organizations, and beyond. Items in this section might consist of recent publications, articles, projects, conferences, workshops, events or other public engagements.

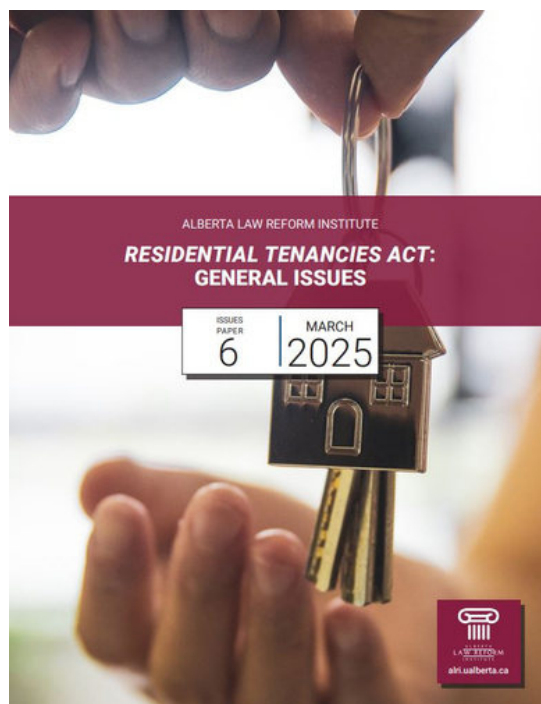
To propose an item to be featured in a future LCC Bulletin, please email comms@lcc-cdc.gc.ca. Submissions should include a brief description of the item in 175 words or less, any links to pages containing additional information about the item (web and/or social media), and a photo (if relevant).

Alberta Law Reform Institute (ALRI)

The Residential Tenancies Act: General Issues

ALRI has published its Issues Paper, Residential Tenancies: General Issues. This is the first in a series of reports summarizing issues in the law that affects tenants and landlords on a daily basis. The publication will be used to guide ALRI's further work on the Act and inform the work of other agencies that may address issues with the law that are outside the scope of ALRI's project. The paper lays out common challenges surrounding housing in Canada, and potential reforms that can be made to the Residential Tenancies Act, related legislation and enforcement mechanisms in order to ensure better outcomes for all parties involved.

[Read the Issues Paper here.](#)



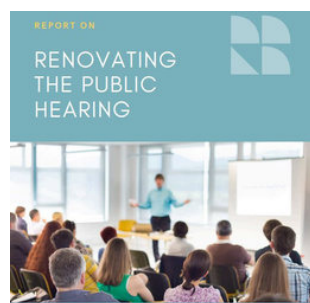


British Columbia Law Institute (BCLI)

BCLI Report on Renovating the Public Hearing

Public hearings provide individuals with a forum to express views on proposed changes to local land use in BC. Public hearings have been set into the legal framework for local governments for about 100 years and help decision-making authorities to regulate land use. The BCLI has issued a report on reforming the legal framework regarding public hearings, with a number of recommendations to improve this important part of democracy.

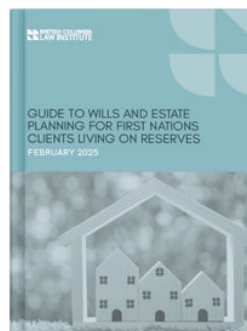
[Read the report here.](#)



BCLI Guide to Wills and Estates for First Nations Clients Living on Reserves

Estate planning and will drafting for First Nations individuals living on reserves involve distinct legal and practical issues. Practitioners must be aware of these in providing legal services. The BCLI has developed the Guide to Wills and Estates For First Nations Clients Living on Reserves for legal professionals in British Columbia who advise First Nations clients but may not specialize in Aboriginal law or estate matters.

[Learn more about the guide here.](#)



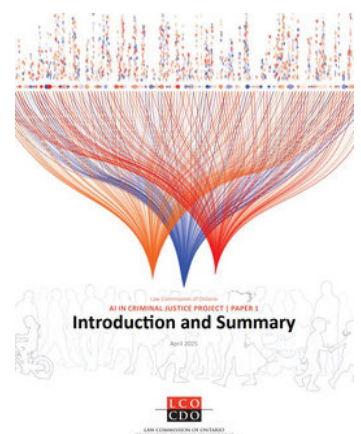
From the LCC's Partners

Law Commission of Ontario (LCO)

AI in Criminal Justice Issues Paper

The LCO has published a series of papers on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the criminal justice system. The project includes an introduction and four project Issues papers, which each consider the use of AI in a distinct phase of the criminal justice process.

- [Introduction & Summary](#)
- [Law Enforcement Use of AI](#)
- [AI and the Assessment of Risk in Bail, Sentencing, and Recidivism](#)
- [AI at Trial and on Appeal](#)
- [AI and Systemic Oversight Mechanisms](#)





From the LCC's Partners

Supported by the LCC, a first workshop took place on 13 March 2025 at the École de technologie supérieure in Montreal and was dedicated to identifying the needs of judicial actors and the broader legal community.

[A Summary Report is available here](#) (available in French only). A second workshop will take place in Fall 2025.

Institut Québécois de réforme du droit et de la justice (IQRDJ)

Statistique judiciaire et juridique

The IQRDJ is organizing a series of workshops focused on judicial and legal statistics in Quebec. These workshops bring together key stakeholders and actors within the justice sector, including representatives from judicial governance (ministries, courts and tribunals, public and para-public organizations), members of the scientific and research community, as well as counterparts from similar jurisdictions. The primary objectives are to:

- Facilitate dialogue among Quebec organizations, stakeholders, and justice sector actors regarding the conditions for developing judicial and legal statistics in Quebec.
- Identify needs and explore solutions to address the lack of reliable judicial and legal data.
- Consider the establishment of a Laboratory dedicated to judicial and legal statistics.





*Wellness Court - Yellowknife
June 2025*

Indigenous Spotlight

Wellness Court

During an inspiring visit to Yellowknife in early June, the LCC was fortunate to connect with a number of actors working with great determination, resourcefulness, and creativity to advance reconciliation in the Northwest Territories (“NWT”). In this edition of the LCC Bulletin, we are delighted to highlight two groups working in distinct but interconnected ways to make space for Indigenous knowledge, practices, and traditions within Canada’s justice system: the territory’s Specialized Courts Team and the Dene Wellness Warriors.

On June 5, the LCC attended Yellowknife’s Wellness Court, one of the components of the NWT Territorial Court with which the Specialized Courts Team is involved. The Wellness Court is a judicially supervised alternative to the conventional court system that seeks to provide support to accused individuals with underlying mental health or addiction challenges. If an individual is found both eligible and suitable, and they agree to plead guilty to one of the offences they are charged for, they can choose to participate in the Wellness Court Program, where they are provided with tools, counselling, and care needed for long-term healing and rehabilitation. During the program, participants’ charges are adjourned. The Wellness Court will later take their participation in the program into account at the time of sentencing.



Dene Wellness Warriors

Roy and Jean Erasmus are a husband-and-wife duo who formed the Dene Wellness Warriors upon realizing that Jean was the only certified professional Indigenous counsellor in the NWT. A lawyer by training, Roy came to counselling later in life after serving as an MLA, Chief of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and a deputy minister in the territorial government.

The Dene Wellness Warriors provide counselling and wellness services to Indigenous clients throughout the NWT. They also provide training for aspiring Indigenous counsellors, offering culturally adapted instruction drawing on both Western and traditional approaches, in order to help Indigenous northerners address intergenerational traumas. The need to address these traumas is particularly acute in the NWT, given that the territory has the highest proportion of Indigenous people who attended residential school.

They currently run a Northern Indigenous Counselling diploma program, which has taught two cohorts of students, and they are seeking to establish a masters-level program, as well as to build a dedicated trauma healing lodge.

Read more about the Dene Wellness Warriors [here](#).



Meeting with Roy and Jean Erasmus of the Dene Wellness Warriors

While not designed specifically for Indigenous peoples, the Wellness Court is strongly influenced by Indigenous values, relationships, and communities by virtue of the demographics of the NWT. The court's process is rooted in principles of restorative justice which prioritize healing, reconciliation, and the restoration of balance, rather than strictly punitive measures. Wherever possible and appropriate, the supports offered to participants are culturally relevant and based in the traditions of the NWT's communities.

Rather than adopting an adversarial approach, all justice sector actors – from judges, to Crowns, to defense lawyers, to administrative staff – work together to support participants. Based on data showing that judicial interaction over three minutes is a primary factor in reducing recidivism, the Wellness Court has instituted a practice of posing a question of the week to all participants appearing before it. During the LCC's visit, the judge spoke with participants about what they were most looking forward to during the summer, with answers including spending time on the land, picking berries with family, and fishing.

The Specialized Courts Team also offers incentives to reward continued positive behaviour, such as an offering of yarn and knitting needles to encourage a participant's burgeoning hobby, as observed by the LCC.

Learn more about Yellowknife's Wellness Court [here](#).



Intersecting Vocations

Although they are not formally linked, the work of both the Specialized Courts team in Yellowknife's Wellness Court and the Dene Wellness Warriors converge in a shared mission to support individuals in a way that is holistic and culturally grounded. As the Wellness Court gains in popularity and a growing number of participants seek mental health supports as part of their program, the Dene Wellness Warriors are helping ensure that Indigenous individuals will have access to appropriate care delivered by individuals with a deep understanding of the cultural and social factors at play in their recovery. Both actors underscore that law and justice do not exist in a vacuum, but rather that they are part of an ecosystem where rights and responsibilities meet relationships and communities. Together, they are building a bridge between justice and healing that honours culture and transforms lives.





Upcoming Events

August

- August 27-28 – « La parole aux Premiers Peuples : ensemble pour une autochtonisation du droit et la décolonisation des pratiques dans les Facultés de droit » – organized by Université Laval professor Kathy Bellefleur at the Hôtel-Musée des premières nations in Wendake, QC.

September

- September 19 – “The Future of Justice: Democratizing Legal AI” – organized by Amy Salyzyn from the University of Ottawa and Samuel Dohan from Queen’s University at McGill University in Montreal, QC.
- September 27-28 – « Cinq ans après Joyce : Quelle réconciliation avec les institutions publiques » – organized by Karine Millaire from Université de Montréal and Jennifer Petiquay from the Bureau du Principe de Joyce (Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan) at the Delta Hotel in Trois-Rivières.
- Late September - LCC Engagements in Prince Edward Island.

October

- October 2-3 – “International Law and the Challenges and Possibilities for Interstate Peace in the Twenty-First Century” – organized by Ryan Liss at the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law in London, ON.
- October 2-3 – “Mental Health Law: Emerging Controversies and Cross-Sector Perspectives” – organized by the Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, ON.
- Mid October - LCC engagements in Calgary and Yukon.
- October 15 – « 2^e journée de réflexion sur la statistique juridique et judiciaire » - organized by the Institut québécois de réforme du droit et de la justice (IQRDJ). Location TBD.

- October 22-23 – « Séminaire international d’experts dans le cadre du 20^{ème} anniversaire de la Convention sur la protection et la promotion de la diversité des expressions culturelles » - organized by the Centre de recherche en droit public (CRDP), la Coalition pour la diversité des expressions des culturelles (CDEC) et les Amis des médias canadiens at the Monastère des Augustines in Québec, QC.
- October 24 – “Multidimensional Equality: The Coming Into Force of Section 15” – organized by Kerri Froc at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law in Saskatoon, SK.
- October 30-31 – « Les relations transatlantiques face à la nouvelle politique étrangère américaine : enjeux juridiques et géostratégiques d’un changement de paradigme dans les relations internationales » - organized by the Chaire Jean Monnet en intégration européenne de l’Université Laval et le Cercle Europe at Université Laval in Québec, QC.

November

- November 13-14 – “Corporate Accountability in Canada: At the Crossroads of Scholarship, Legislation, Litigation, Policy-making and Community Resistance” – organized by Akinwumi Ogunranti from the University of Manitoba and Penelope Simmons from the University of Ottawa at the University of Manitoba and Canadian Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg, MB.
- Mid-November - LCC engagements in Toronto and Windsor.
- Late November – “Family Dispute Resolution Week of Newfoundland & Labrador” – organized by the Family Dispute Resolution Institute Atlantic at a location TBD in St. John’s, NL.